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by the author in East Africa. The book is supplied with numerous footnotes explaining every difficult word, complex construction, etc., so as to adapt it for beginners. It includes Suaheli stories, conversations, bits of history, proverbs, riddles, poems and songs. Many of the conversations relate to business, commerce, and the daily affairs of life, and will thus help white workers to acquire the everyday vocabulary. The book will give to students a valuable insight into the intellectual life of the Suaheli.

The Wonders of the Colorado Desert. By George Wharton

James. 2 vols. lvii and 547 pp., over 300 pen-and-ink Sketches, Maps, and Index. Little, Brown & Company, Boston, 1906. (Price, \$5.)

Seven years ago Mr. James published his "In and Around the Grand Canyon." It was the result of ten years of visiting to that wonderland. The pages showed plainly enough that the most careful and long-continued study had been given to the preparations necessary to write a good book. It was no tourist's sketch.

The present work by Mr. James shows the same grasp and mastery of the subject. He has spent a long time in studying the Colorado Desert, and his long book is full of detailed information about it. It is not a scientific treatise, but it contains much scientific matter. It is by no means wholly original, for the author quotes liberally from the best writers on the various aspects of the Desert. The whole is intended for the general reader, and Mr. James has rendered a service by placing before the public so admirable an account of that remarkable region.

The Colorado Desert, so called because the Colorado River passes through it, is in southern California and northern Mexico. The "Grand Canyon of the Colorado" lies in Utah and Arizona. The author calls attention to the fact that the use of the word Colorado has misled many persons:

Just as the "Grand Canyon of the Colorado" has been supposed (and still is) by thousands to be located in Colorado, so is the Colorado desert supposed to occupy a portion of that great state of mineral wealth.

Most readers will be surprised to learn of the manifold aspects of this Desert as they are unfolded in these pages, which first give a general review of it and then describe it in greater detail. Among the surprises mentioned by the author are the clarity of the atmosphere, the large, brilliant beauty of the stars, the coolness of the night after the blazing day, the desert rains, the contrasting colours of mountain slope, snowcap, and sands, the varieties and peculiarities of tree and other plant life, the wealth of desert flowers, the speed with which trees and plants mature, and the scores of wells yielding millions of gallons of water. All these and many other phases of the Desert, including the work of turning parts of it into areas of verdure and fertility, are described in the thirty-nine chapters; and the work concludes with a full description of the calamity that has befallen the Salton Basin, lying below the level of the sea, by the unfortunate diversion of the waters of the Colorado River into the Imperial Valley.

Mr. James does well to give a sketch of his artist, Carl Eytel, whose hundreds of pen-and-ink sketches are fully worthy to illustrate the vivid word-pictures they accompany. Eytel is an artist because he cannot help it. He loves this fascinating region and its life. He has been painting, sketching, and studying there for years. His work certainly shows a high order of talent, and we may readily believe in the truthfulness as well as the sincerity of the tribute Mr. James pays

to him: "He knows the Colorado Desert as no other man knows it, and his sketches are faithful portrayals of objects he has seen and lived with."

Cours de Géographie. Par Henry Lemonnier et F. Schrader.

Avec la collaboration de Marcel Dubois. Cours Supérieur. Quarto, 176 pp., 266 Maps and Figures in colours and black, and 191 other Illustrations. Hachette & Co., Paris, 1906. (Price, fr. 3.50.)

This Atlas and text have been entirely reconstructed to conform with the French official requirements for the higher geographical courses in the common schools. The general facts of physical, mathematical, and human geography form an introduction to a more detailed study of the continents and their political divisions; the latter half of the book describes France in all its geographical relations. This is one of the best French school books. The subject is well arranged and logically developed. Each lesson is divided into two distinct parts. The first presents the essential ideas and the geographical names which should be committed to memory; the second part, embracing supplementary ideas or explanatory detail, is presented in the form of a reading lesson.

Commercial and industrial geography are especially emphasized, and the wealth of illustrations, particularly of coloured and black maps, is one of the finest features of the book. In the hands of a master like Schrader the many scores of maps could not fail to be instructive and well produced. In plan and in detail this is a book to be highly commended, and it will be serviceable to our teachers of geography who read French. Occasional mistakes may be easily corrected. The tsetse fly does not render cattle-raising impossible in the Congo basin, and cattle are now kept at about 70 white stations in the Congo Free State; coffee is not among the products of our south Atlantic States, and Newfoundland is not a political part of Canada.

Kinship Organizations and Group Marriage in Australia. By

Northcote W. Thomas. xiv and 163 pp., Diagrams, Index and Maps.

The Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1906, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. (Price, \$2.)

The book is to some extent a criticism of the folly of hasty theories based upon insufficient data. It adds to the large number of facts previously collected by Spencer, Gillen, Roth, Howitt, Mrs. Parker and others, analyzes the whole evidence and points out the inconsistencies that are found in some of the most pretentious records. The book is a survey of our present knowledge of Australian kinship organizations, and it may well help to stimulate further research in that field, which may throw more light on the many difficult problems of primitive sociology. The author goes outside the Australian field for many facts collected from other primitive peoples that may afford useful clues.

In the first chapter, Mr. Thomas discusses social organization among peoples of low culture, such as tribes, kinship groups, totem kins and phratries (the prohibition of marriage to a member of one's own tribe or group), drawing upon our knowledge of these organizations in all parts of the world. He deals, in the second chapter, with descent as reckoned in the paternal or maternal line, but does not attempt to answer the questions why early mankind appears, almost universally, to have reckoned descent of the kin name and inheritance in the female line and why many tribes have shifted to reckoning in the male line. No evidence justifies a theory, and he thinks the problem is probably insoluble.

He next discusses the organizations called totem kins, phratries, and matri-